



# CEWARN *Monthly*

The Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism of the  
Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

*"Empowering stakeholders to prevent violent conflict"*

February 2010

Issue No. 25

## ICT for Peace Project launch held in Moroto, Uganda



*CEWARN Response Coordinator Mr. Abdelrashid Warsame (left) witnesses signing of MOU among Ugandan local CEWARN stakeholders on ICT 4 Peace*

The ICT 4 Peace Project launch for the Ugandan side of the Karamoja Cluster was held in Moroto district, Uganda from 24-25 February 2010.

The ICT 4 Peace Project is a collaborative effort of CEWARN and USAID/EA and is aimed at improving communication capacities of CEWARN's local peace actors in the Karamoja Cluster by providing HF radios and other communications equipments. This is believed to significantly improve CEWARN's early warning and response work which to a large extent relies on timely communication of information to mitigate and prevent conflicts. CEWARN is currently piloting the project in the Karamoja Cluster, one of its areas of reporting, that covers the cross-border areas of Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda.

At the launching ceremony, Head of the Ugandan national Conflict early Warning and Response Unit (CEWERU) Mr. Wafuba Ahmed expressed his belief that the successful implementation of the project will enable CEWERUs, Local peace Committees (LPCs) and other actors to prevent cross-border pastoral and related conflicts and ensure peace in the

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Karamoja Cluster. He also thanked CEWARN and USAID/EA for initiating the project.

The launch ceremony was followed by a training workshop for some members of the Moroto Local Peace Committee (LPC) which are end users of the HF radios.♦

## **CEWARN holds refresher training for Field Monitors in Sudan**

CEWARN held refresher training for CEWARN Field Monitors based in five areas of reporting (Narus, Ikotor, Lotukei, Kapoeta and Naita) in the Eastern Equatoria State of Sudan from 19-20 February 2010 in Juba. The training involved a review of CEWARN's 55 early warning indicators; modes of information collection and verification as well as reporting.

Discussions were also held on best practices in communicating early warning information and prompting early response action.

While the Sudanese national Conflict Early Warning and Early Response Unit (CEWERU) has been operational since 2003, CEWARN started monitoring and reporting on cross-border pastoralist and related conflicts on the Sudanese side of the Karamoja Cluster in August 2009. ♦

## NEWS FROM CEWARN'S AREAS OF REPORTING



*Rough Indication of CEWARN's Current areas of reporting - the Karamoja, Somali and Dikihil Clusters*

In the Month of February, a total of 17 violent incidents were recorded in the Karamoja, Somali and Dikihil Clusters causing 14 human deaths (4 women and children) and loss of 129 livestock.

### CEWARN participates at 26th Ethio-Kenya Joint Border Administrators' / Commissioners' Meeting

CEWARN participated at the 26th Ethio-kenya Joint Border Administrators and Commissioners meeting that took place in Hawassa, Ethiopia from 15-16 February 2010. The Head of Immigration and Nationality Affairs of Ethiopia Mr. Mulugeta Mekonnen headed the Ethiopian delegation while the Kenyan delegation was led by H.E Ms. Claire Omollo, Provincial Commissioner Eastern Province of Kenya. Delegates of both countries were also composed of representatives of various ministries of the two counties and representatives of regional and national security structures.

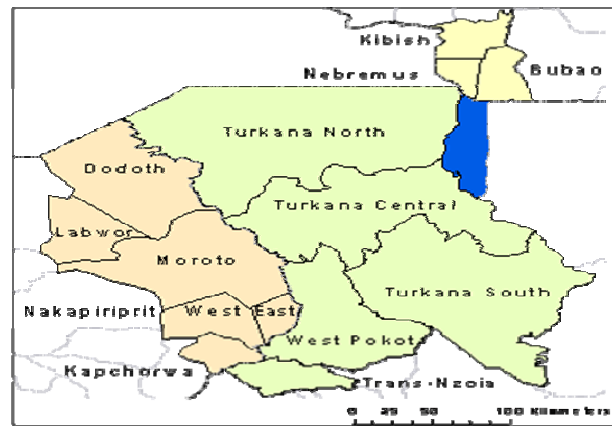
The meeting deplored the persistent ethnic conflicts and cattle rustling in the South Omo Zone of Ethiopia

and the North-Turkana Zone of Kenya and discussed other of peace and security threats including the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons. Other issues pertaining to economic and social cooperation among the two countries including border trade, customs, human and livestock health as well as agriculture and education were also discussed.

A 10 - point communiqué issued at the end of the meeting lauded CEWARN's support in regional peace and security efforts and particularly the ICT for Peace Project which will significantly improve communication capacities of local peace actors along the borders of the two countries.

### Samburu Central District, Kenya, celebrates months of Peace

*Story courtesy of Mr. Joseph Lenseiyan, CEWARN Field Monitor of Samburu District*



*Rough Unofficial map of CEWARN's areas of reporting in the Kenyan side of the Karamoja cluster (colored green).*

Samburu Central District which has for long suffered intermittent conflict between the Samburu communities and their neighbours the Pokot celebrated months of Peace on 22 February 2009. The Celebration was held at Maralal Kenyatta Stadium in Samburu Central District and marked two uninterrupted months of peace in the district. The Celebration brought together government officials including the Kenyan Internal Security Minister and the Provincial Commissioner of Rift Valley Province as well as local administration officials and local communities from the Samburu and surrounding districts.

## Lack of peace policies cited as a critical gap in achieving Peace and Security in Karamoja Cluster

"Lack of peace policies in countries of the Karamoja Cluster is a critical gap that hinders efforts to achieve peace and security in the region." Prof. Samson Opolot, a research fellow in Centre for Basic Research (CBR), in his research paper entitled *"Policy inertia and poor peace outcomes in Karamoja Cluster: towards a way forward"* asserts that national and sub-regional efforts to achieve peace and security in the Karamoja Cluster are hindered by lack of peace policies in concerned countries that would guide national and regional efforts to achieve peace. He adds, lack of peace policies also means that countries can not have principled coordination and harmonization within and across borders on issues of peace and security.

According to prof. Opolot, lack of focus on the root causes of pastoralist conflicts; failure to appreciate pastoralism as a viable way of life; failure to harness livestock resources and lack of a harmonized approach on disarmament in the region are other key challenges. The research paper also offers recommendations to deal with particularly policy related challenges of achieving peace and security among communities of the Karamoja Cluster. He recommends for speeding up of processes in Member states on the development of peace policies as well as coordination and harmonization within and across borders in the implementation of these policies. Other recommendations include focusing on community needs; focusing on capacity building of local leadership as well as adopting a human security approach in stead of a state-centered approach.

Prof. Opolot made the presentation at a Policy dialogue forum with the theme *"Towards a secure and prosperous Karamoja Cluster: Addressing Challenges related to peace and security and livestock development,"* organized by Practical Action and held in Nairobi, Kenya from 4-5 February 2010. The forum brought together civil society representatives from the Karamoja Cluster representing Kenya, Sudan and Uganda. Other organizations working in the area of Peace and security operating in the Karamoja Cluster such as the

Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (CEWARN), the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Institute of Security Studies (ISS) were also present.

### During the month of February, CEWARN participated and contributed to....

- ∞ ....the *Regional Senior Mission Leaders Course held on 3 February 2010 in Nairobi* organized by the International Peace Support Training Centre (ISPTC). The Ag. Director of CEWARN Mr. Raymond Kitevu facilitated and contributed to a session on the *Dynamics of Conflict in Eastern Africa and the Role of CEWARN*.
- ∞ ...a policy dialogue forum entitled *"Towards a secure and prosperous Karamoja Cluster: Addressing Challenges related to peace and security and livestock development,"* organized by Practical Action and held in Nairobi, Kenya from 4-5 February 2010. The forum brought together civil society representatives from the Karamoja Cluster representing Kenya, Sudan and Uganda.

### CEWARN also received ...

- ∞ Ms. Maria Wennberg from Sweden who is enrolled in a Masters Programme in peace and Conflict Studies at Uppsala University, Sweden. Ms. Wennberg will be undertaking internship at the CEWARN Unit through April 2010 and use the time to complete her research on 'the civil society organizations and the prevention of local conflicts' and complete her attachment with CEWARN by end of April 2010.
- ∞ ... and consulted with Dr. Solomon Munya who is commissioned by the IGAD secretariat to conduct a study on the planned establishment of a Livestock Unit under the IGAD Secretariat.



## February in Pictures



*Participants of ICT 4 Peace Launch in Moroto District, Uganda*



*President of the Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples' Regional State of Ethiopia Mr. Shiferaw Sheguite (left) and the Provincial Commissioner of Northern Rift Valley Province of Kenya Mr. Osman Warfa/ From CEWARN photo library*



*Armed pastoralist youth in Ethiopia looks after the herd. Proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons is an important aggravating factor of violent conflicts in the sub-region. CEWARN supports regional efforts towards harmonization of disarmament programmes and other control measures to curb the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.*



*Trainee tests HF radio handed over to the Moroto District Peace Committee through the ICT 4 Peace Project*

## *Upcoming Events:*

- ✚ Training of new CEWARN Ethiopian and Kenyan Field Monitors, 28 -29 March 2010, Nairobi, Kenya
- ✚ NSC-Kenya stakeholder's Consultative meeting from 31st March – 1 April 2010.
- ✚ Youth Peace Tournament for the Ethiopian and Kenyan sides of the Somali Cluster, 7 -11 April, Moyale Town